

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/589,037

Examiner

Thomas A. Dixon

Applicant(s)

LITMAN ET AL.

Art Unit

3639

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/20/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-40.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 06 June 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-40 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As per Claim 1.

The prior art of record, specifically Tagawa (5,732,398) in view of Priceline, Isaacson et al (WO 00/19351), Bianco (5,047,614), Allard et al (6,249,773) or Tracy et al (6,550,672) does not disclose or fairly teach:

a hotel master database operable to store generic information and specific information associated with one or more hotels;

a reservation engine operable to:

communicate a list of hotels meeting the parameters, the list including at least one generic hotel listing;

receive a reservation request for a hotel associated with a generic hotel listing.

As per Claim 12.

The prior art of record, specifically Tagawa (5,732,398) in view of Priceline, Isaacson et al (WO 00/19351), Bianco (5,047,614), Allard et al (6,249,773) or Tracy et al (6,550,672) does not disclose or fairly teach:

obtaining information associated with the request from one or more databases, the databases including generic information and specific information associated with one or more hotels, a number of rooms available at the hotels on one or more dates and a price of each room;

communicating a list of the hotels meeting the parameters, the list including at least one generic hotel listing;

receiving a reservation request for a hotel associated with a generic hotel listing.

As per Claims 23.

The prior art of record, specifically Tagawa (5,732,398) in view of Priceline, Isaacson et al (WO 00/19351), Bianco (5,047,614), Allard et al (6,249,773) or Tracy et al (6,550,672) does not disclose or fairly teach:

an item master database operable to store generic information and specific information associated with one or more items;

a transaction engine operable to:

communicate a list of items meeting the parameters, the list including at least one generic item listing;

receive a request for an item associated with a generic item listing.

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As per Claim 32.

The prior art of record, specifically Tagawa (5,732,398) in view of Priceline, Isaacson et al (WO 00/19351), Bianco (5,047,614), Allard et al (6,249,773) or Tracy et al (6,550,672) does not disclose or fairly teach:

obtaining information associated with the request from one or more databases, the databases including generic information and specific information associated with one or more item, and specific information associated with one or more items; availability data associated with the items and the price of each item;

communicating a list of the items meeting the parameters, the list including at least one generic item listing;

receiving a request for an item associated with a generic item listing.

The claims that depend from the above allowed claims are allowed for the same reasons.

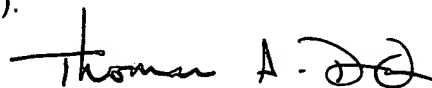
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas A. Dixon whose telephone number is (571) 272-6803. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 6:30 - 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on (571) 272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Thomas A. Dixon
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3639

July 05